

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SS-15 EUR-12 SCA-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 JUSE-00 SEC-01 PA-02 PRS-01
USIA-15 /077 W
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P R 141750Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7764
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 2727

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CS
SUBJECT: ODUBER REITERATES THAT VESCO SHOULD LEAVE COSTA RICA

REF: SAN JOSE 2689

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT ODUBER HAS INDICATED THAT HE BELIEVES A NEW VESCO EXTRADITION REQUEST WOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL. HE HAS REITERATED HIS POSITION THAT ROBERT VESCO SHOULD LEAVE COSTA RICA BUT THAT ONLY THE COURTS CAN DETERMINE WHEN. ODUBER CHASTISED THE MEDIA FOR CONTINUING TO EMPHASIZE THE CASE AND PRESENT IT ONLY IN TERMS OF BEING A COSTA RICAN PROBLEM, ADDING THE MATTER WAS NOT SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO DISCUSS WITH MRS. CARTER, ODUBER RELEASED THE TEXT OF VESCO'S FEBRUARY 28, 1977 LETTER TO HIM IN WHICH VESCO CLARIFIED HIS POSITION ON HIS LEGAL SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A JUNE 13 TELEVISION INTERVIEW DANIEL ODUBER RECAPITULATED THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN HIS JUNE 9 ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON THE VESCO CASE. ODUBER DESCRIBED THE PRIMACY
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OF THE COURTS IN LEGAL MATTERS EMPHASIZING THAT MEMBERS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION RESPECT THE AUTHORITY OF THE JUDICIARY, NATIONAL LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS. SIGNIFICANTLY HE STATED THAT "I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT A NEW EXTRADITION REQUEST WOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL." ODUBER ADDED THAT "THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES MUST DECLARE WHEN MR. VESCO CAN LEAVE THE COUNTRY. MY GOVERNMENT FAVORS THAT HE SHOULD

LEAVE AND HE HAS INDICATED HE WILL DEPART AFTER ATTENDING TO HIS PROBLEMS AND MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARD HIS INVESTMENTS. THIS IS WHAT I SAID THURSDAY NIGHT (JUNE 9) AND THIS IN A FEW WORDS IS THE ONLY THING THAT INTERESTS ME ABOUT THIS CASE."

3. ODUBER CONTINUED TO EXPRESS ANNOYANCE WITH PRESS COVERAGE OF THE ISSUE PARTICULARLY ITS PROMINENCE, AND PORTRAYAL IN STRICTLY COSTA RICAN TERMS. "I HAVE REPEATEDLY MAINTAINED," HE EMPHASIZED, "THAT IT IS A U.S. INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEM AS WELL AS A COSTA RICAN ONE." HE NOTED THAT THE MATTER DID NOT ARISE IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MRS. CARTER DECLARING SOMEWHAT SARCASTICALLY, "WE SPOKE ABOUT IMPORTANT THINGS AND IN NO MOMENT WAS THE VESCO CASE MENTIONED." HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE TODMAN AND HE DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT IN PASSING DURING MRS. CARTER'S VISIT.

4. THE PRESIDENT RELEASED THE TEXT OF A LETTER ROBERT VESCO SENT TO HIM IN FEBRUARY 1977 AS HE HAD PROMISED TO DO. THE LETTER REITERATES VESCO'S STATED INTENTION NOT TO SEEK COSTA RICAN CITIZENSHIP UNTIL HIS LEGAL PROBLEMS IN THE U.S. WERE RESOLVED. IT GOES ON TO EXPLAIN THE FINANCIER'S ASSESSMENT OF HIS LEGAL AND PERSONAL SITUATION IN COSTA RICA.
COMPLETE TEXT SUBMITTED SEPTTEL.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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